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THE GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AREA

Several of the activities constituting the basis for the Geographic Research Area in ORR were born of wartime necessity. The cartographic function had its beginning in the Office of Strategic Services in 1941 and the map library function began shortly thereafter in the same organization. The map intelligence and geographic research activity did not begin until 1944, first as an outgrowth of the map library function and then as a separate entity. The greatest development in the geographic research and map intelligence activity took place after 1947, when specific programs and responsibilities in CIA determined its course.

All these functions, as parts of the Map Division of OSS, joined in 1945 with similar functions of the Division of Geography and Cartography, Department of State, and in their amalgamated form became the Geography Division of the Department of State, from that date until December 1947, when the organization was transferred into CIA. This newly acquired Division was assigned within CIA to ORR (and still remains part of the Office which developed out of ORR). The changes following the Dulles-Jackson-Correa report which, in part, resulted in the dissolution of ORR and the creation of a new Office, ORR, did not affect the structure of the Geography Division. It was not until June 1952, at which time the Office was reorganized into three component areas, that the course of events

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brought about structural change of the Division.

In June 1952 the Geographic Research Area, along with the Economic and Coordination Areas, was created and the Branches of the Geography Division attained Division status. At the same time, provision was made for a new Photo Intelligence Division to be a part of the organizational structure of the Geographic Research Area.

Since June 1952, the Geographic Research Area, composed of the four Divisions of Cartography, Geography, Map Library and Photo Intelligence, has continued to perform its mission in CIA and in the intelligence community. The Office of the Chief, Geographic Research has been responsible to the Assistant Director, Research and Reports, for the policy direction and administration of the work of the four divisions consistent with the plans and objectives of the Office.

The functions of the Geographic Research Area have developed in the direction of fulfilling the needs of CIA and of providing overall geographic intelligence coordination for the intelligence community. For the Map Library this has meant the development of a collection that primarily serves CIA but is also much used by other intelligence organizations. In addition, the Map Library coordinates map procurement activities for the intelligence community ^{25X1C4a} [REDACTED] and the Inter-Agency Map Procurement Coordination Committee. The Cartography Division meets

CIA needs for production of maps and provides some visual aid (graphic) support, as well as providing cartographic support to the Department of State and the NIS program. The geographic intelligence research, in the Geography Division, has developed in the following directions: greater support of detailed operational requirements of the DD/P Area; meeting escape-and-evasion-geography needs of the Air Force, Navy, and Army; analyzing Soviet geodetic and mapping capabilities; and achieving greater ability to coordinate U. S. geographic intelligence efforts. The newest Division, the Photo Intelligence Division, has plunged into the problems of achieving more effective utilization in CIA of photo intelligence and of developing procedures and systems for more effectively coordinating photo intelligence activities of the intelligence community.

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I. CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

In addition to the major change of status from a Branch to a Division in June 1952, other organizational changes have occurred within the Division since November 1950. The present Graphics Branch, D/GC, was transferred to the Division in May 1951 and has provided the Agency with visual aid support to the limit of its capability since that date. The Special Support Branch was established in the Division in September 1951 and assigned space and responsibilities in the Special Center. It has functioned in this capacity to date.

As a result of many years of professional growth in the Division, a regional concept and approach in the compilation of maps was adopted in the fall of 1952. Concurrent with this was an official recognition of the part geography played in the production of maps. As a result, standards were established which recognized the employment of professionally trained geographers as cartographers in the Division. A formal training program for all new personnel was established whereby eight weeks of concentrated training in the techniques and procedures employed by the Division aids the professional growth of new personnel. This training program has shown remarkable results and has been in operation since fall 1950. It was the outgrowth, however, of many years of experience prior to that date.

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Personnel in the Cartography Division have represented the Agency's interest in this field at several international mapping conferences and have on one occasion assisted in the coordination of the NIS program at a Far East installation. The Chief of the Division represents the Agency on the Board of Geographic Names.

The Cartography Division provides the Agency with cartographic support and to a degree with visual aid (graphic) support. The type of map produced by the Division is usually of medium to small-scale, tailor-made to support intelligence production and operational planning, and is of a non-topographic nature. Maps, cartograms, charts, visual aids and graphic items of numerous types are produced by the Division in support of all components of the Agency. 1/ A series of base maps for the NIS program are currently being compiled and constructed and will be used by all contributors to the program. In addition, numerous substantive maps are prepared for the NIS program, many of which relate to Department of State NIS responsibility. The Division also provides considerable support to the programs of the Office of Intelligence Research, Department of State.

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Within the past two years projects for fulfilling the requirements for the DD/P Area have increased markedly. Many such maps for the DD/P Area are prepared for inclusion in Geographic Intelligence Reports. During the same two-year period the number of requests for support from the Economic Research Area of ORA has increased considerably. At the current rate of production the Division is producing approximately 1,800 separate items per year, of which 83 percent are for CIA and the remaining 12 percent are non-CIA, primarily for the Department of State. It is significant to note that in FY 1951 only 76.5 percent of the total production was in support of CIA. Another trend to be recognized is the fact that in FY 1951 only 10 components of CIA were supported while figures for FY 1954 showed that 20 separate units in CIA received support. (See Annex 1)

The Division had 39 persons on duty in FY 1951 and has a current on-duty strength of 54. During the past four years the Division has successfully supplied to all requesters those maps and graphics urgently required by them and has so broadened its base of support that at the present time cartographic and graphic support is being given to all offices in CIA requiring such service.

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II. GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

The map intelligence activity which developed during the latter stages of the war was formally organized into the Map Intelligence Branch of the Geography Division and concentrated on supplying evaluated map analyses and interpretations to various governmental consumers. This competence, which was used in the preparation of JANIS Chapters on map evaluation, was later utilized in the National Intelligence Survey for preparing sections of Chapter IX, Map and Chart Appraisal, and to fully coordinate the activities of a number of map producing agencies in the preparation of materials for Chapter IX. 2/

The regional organization of the Division permitted intense concentration on the geographic character of regions as well as the map coverage and map intelligence concerned with those regions. The staff of the Division, being professionally qualified and trained geographers, soon developed a capability to engage in geographic intelligence research (See Annex 2) beyond the requirements placed upon it by the NIS program and other programs which had been carried over from State Department associations and early CIA efforts. The developing competence of the Geography Division was recognized first by OPC (now part of the DD/P Area) in mid 1951. OSI also made its first requests for geographic intelligence support at about the same time. Toward the end of 1951, the Division

2/ 1. Chapter IX, NIS, GERMANY; 2. Chapter I, NIS, Section 19, IRAN.

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entered into a new type of work, evasion and escape geography, which has continued under varying forms to this day. One phase of this work is the Evasion Geography Program and to date 34 of the country studies have been produced. 3/ Early in 1952 still another type of evasion geography constituting a very detailed analysis of target areas, was requested by the Strategic Air Command. Five of these studies have been produced and there are enough on schedule to keep Division personnel busy (at the rate of four a year) through 1957. 4/ By mid-1952 another type of research was initiated, this time at the request of the area Divisions of the BD/P, who required geographical studies of border zones of the USSR, route and regional analyses, free area operational base studies and many other types requiring applied geographic intelligence for operational planning. 5/ Through 1952-53 more than 50 percent of the research effort went into the preparation of geographic intelligence studies in support of detailed operational requirements. This same percentage of effort, or slightly higher, has been maintained to the present time.

3/ 1. GR-55, Evasion Geography of Indochina. 2. IP-304, Evasion Geography of Albania.

4/ GR-43, Evasion Geography of Selected Areas in the Volga-Don Region.

5/ 1. GR-40, The Ukrainian SSR/Polish-Czech-Hungarian-Rumanian Border Area.
2. GR-13, Target Study of Manchuria.
3. G-11, Physical and Cultural Geography of West China.

A special staff in 1952 began to concentrate effort on the determination of Soviet capabilities in Cartography, Geodesy and Photogrammetry. The Division had already sponsored an external research program in this field

and

the special staff has continued to assist and closely monitor this program. This external research contract has resulted in the publication of a number of very important basic intelligence reports. 6/ Also data resulting from it are currently being used in the preparation of a contribution to a National Intelligence Estimate on Soviet Guided Missile capabilities. The external research work has exploited open Soviet literature and sources and will eventually result in the publication of approximately 15 major reports on various activities relative to Soviet mapping, geodetic and photogrammetric capabilities.

In 1954, the Division was asked by Navy to produce a different kind of evasion geography study, namely one which emphasized escape routes out of a given area. The U. S. Army has indicated that it would like to have its requirements met in the Evasion Geography program.

In contrast to the program of the Division in 1950, when its principal work consisted of the preparation and coordination of NIS Chapters IX, the publication of the Map Intelligence Review, the preparation of boundary studies and reports on mapping institutions, the present program is

6/ ER-5, Soviet Geodetic and Photogrammetric Instrumentation.

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characterized by the continued production of MIA Chapters IX, the monthly publication of the Geographic Intelligence Review which grew out of the Map Intelligence Review, the preparation of ("B" and "C" Area) evasion geographies for the Air Force, the Navy and the Army, in addition to several other types of evasion studies for the DD/P Area, and detailed regional analyses on the Soviet Bloc. Since 1950, there has been a gradual increase in personnel from around 30 to a present on-duty strength of 49. Personnel, by additional regional study and through intensive language training, have increased their professional competence to better serve the needs of the Agency for geographic intelligence.

III. MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

The objective of the Map Library is to maintain an up-to-date library of foreign intelligence maps and related materials, and to coordinate map procurement activities for the mapping agencies of the U. S. Government. In 1952, the Map Library along with the other components of the Geographic Research Area achieved Division status and since that time additional responsibilities in the field of requirements and procurement have been assigned. Recently, entire responsibility for the Map Procurement program, including policy determination and professional direction has been transferred from the Office of Chief, Geographic Research, to the Map Library Division.

Every effort has been made by the Map Library to utilize the training facilities offered by the Agency to increase the competence of its professional and clerical personnel particularly in the field of languages in order that a more adequate library service job can be done. Overseas assignments, which are excellent for training, are strictly related to the Map Procurement Program and have been limited to four special missions which were conducted for administrative and briefing purposes.

A joint acquisitions list of maps, which records the weekly map receipts of U. S. Government agencies, has been published for a number of years by the Map Library. 7/

- 7/
1. Acquisitions List for Maps of Foreign Areas (Confidential).
 2. Acquisitions List for Maps of Foreign Areas (Secret).

The most significant inter-agency coordination conducted by the Map Library has been the development and maintenance of a joint map procurement effort. The cooperative procurement effort includes in addition to CIA, the Army Map Service, Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, Hydrographic Office, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Geological Survey, Library of Congress, and the Department of Interior. The Inter-Agency Map Procurement Coordination Committee, consisting of members from the above-mentioned organizations, recommends procurement programs, on the basis of agency need, to the Special Assistant for Maps, Department of State (formerly the Chief, Geographic Research, currently the Chief, Map Library Division). The Special Assistant for Maps implements these

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During the past seven years an average of some 50,000 map sheets per year have been acquired on behalf of the participating mapping agencies. 8/ Map Exchange arrangements are maintained with some 140 foreign official and commercial mapping agencies.

During the past four years map reference services available to CIA and the intelligence community have increased in number and in complexity of requests received and answered. For a summary of procurement, processing, and reference activities see Annex 3.

- 8/ 1. Annual Report Inter-Agency Procurement 1952 With Previous 5-Year Summary.
2. Annual Report Inter-Agency Procurement 1953.

CIA INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

IV. PHOTO INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

Plans for establishing the Division were formulated in 1951-52 in response to an ever increasing need for photographic intelligence support within CIA which the military services could not provide. Recommendations for the establishment of a specialized Photo Intelligence Division to provide a particular type of support for economic, geographic, scientific and operational intelligence projects were recorded by CIA consultants and CIA officials. The Division became a functioning entity in FY 1953 and was organizationally assigned to the Chief, Geographic Research. The total strength of the Division is 13.

Even though the projects of the Division have been limited because of a small complement of personnel, the following achievements have indicated progress toward accomplishment of objectives. There has been significant development of photo intelligence operational channels and liaison within CIA. The intelligence support needs of the DD/I and DD/P components have been explored. Administrative and intelligence maintenance procedures have been established. Effective liaison with military establishments on materials pertaining to photo intelligence, operational requirements, reconnaissance planning, photographic cover and procurement have been developed. A wide range of training activities and briefings, directed toward widening the scope and raising the level of photo intelligence exploitation in support of CIA objectives, have been established.

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A basic training course in Photo Intelligence, primarily for training economic analysts in the utilization of photographs as another intelligence source, was begun in FY 1953. One of the critical problems facing the Division is the maintenance of a balance between the tremendous demands of a high priority nature and the limited personnel. For a summary of photo intelligence projects accomplished, see Annex 4.

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TAB "A"

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION, ORR TOTAL PRODUCTION

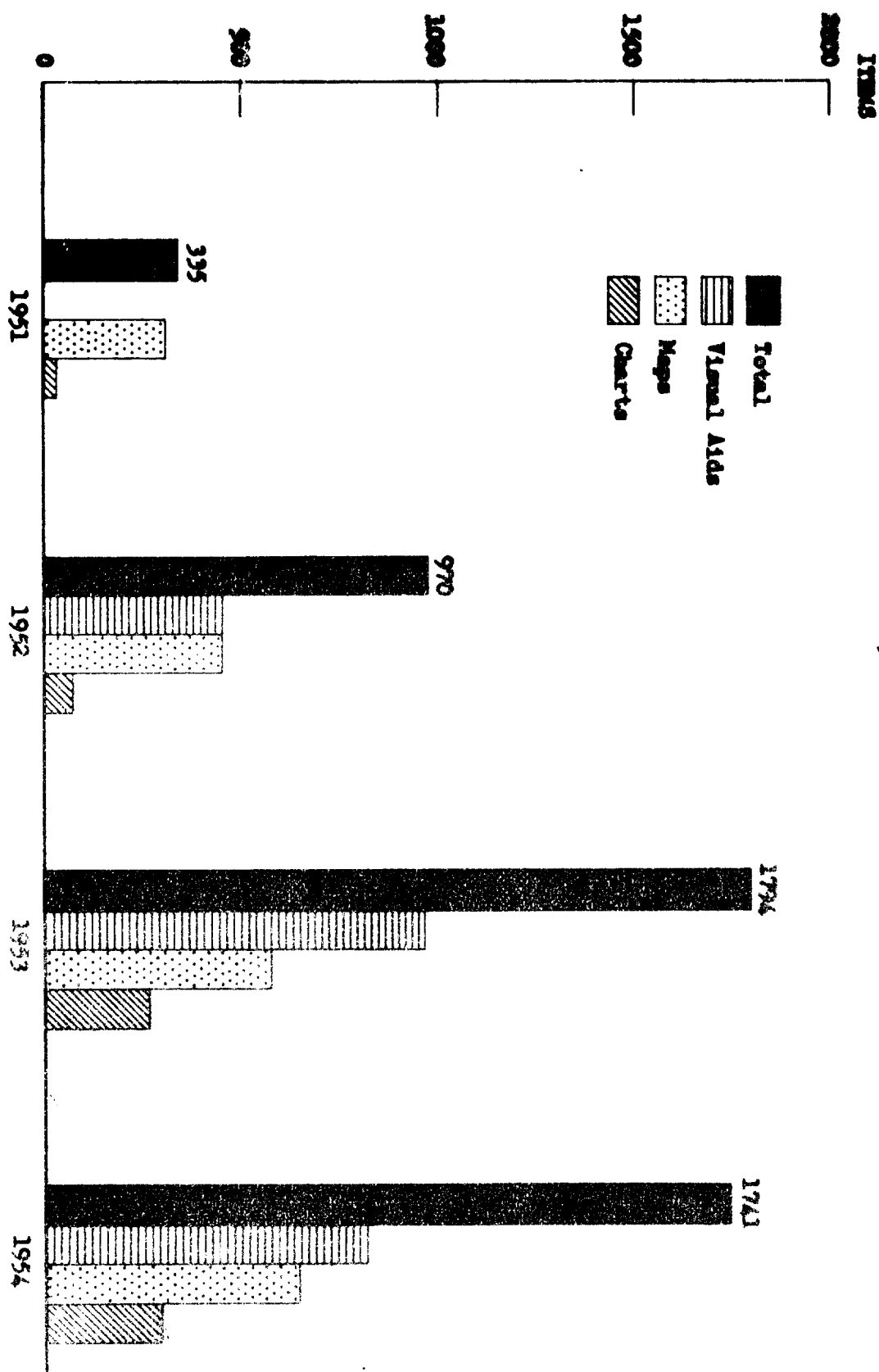
(Fy 1951-54)

FY	Total Maps	NUMBER OF ITEMS			% OF TOTAL FOR CIA	% OF TOTAL FOR COM-CIA	NO. OF CIA COMPONENTS SUPPORTED	PERSONNEL ON DUTY
		Maps	Charts	Total				
51-54	0	305	30	335	76.5%	23.5%	10	39
50-51	450	450	70	970	82.5%	17.5%	14	51
49-50	960	973	261	1794	87.5%	12.5%	18	52
48-49	813	640	286	1741	88.3%	11.7%	20	54

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CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION, ORR TOTAL PRODUCTION

(FY 1951-54)



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ANNEX
2

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DECRYPTION DIVISION

TAB "B"

1. Report Production by Requester from 1 January 1951 through 30 June 1954

	<u>FT 1951</u>	<u>FT 1952</u>	<u>FT 1953</u>	<u>FT 1954</u>
<u>Requester</u>	<u>Jan-Mar</u>	<u>Apr-Jun</u>	<u>Jul-Sep</u>	<u>Oct-Dec</u>
<u>Internal CIA</u>				
DD/P	1	7	16	21
ADM	10	9	11	9
DCI	-	-	-	-
DDI	-	-	-	-
OCI	-	-	-	-
ORI	1	3	-	1
OSI	1	-	1	1
OSI	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	19	27	36
<u>External CIA</u>				
State	6	2	2	-
Navy	-	-	-	1
Air Force	1	-	-	3
AFS	1	5	-	4
Dept. of Commerce	-	-	1	-
JTB(L)	-	-	-	-
Bu. of Budget	-	-	1	-
NSC	-	-	-	-
OSD Physical Staff	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	8	7	3	5
GRAND TOTAL	21	26	30	45

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TAB "B"

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

2. Report Production, by Category, from 1 January 1951 through 30 June 1954.

	<u>FY 1951</u>		<u>FY 1952</u>		<u>FY 1953</u>		<u>FY 1954</u>		<u>Totals</u>
	<u>Jan-Jun</u>	<u>Jul-Dec</u>	<u>Jan-Jun</u>	<u>Jul-Dec</u>	<u>Jan-Jun</u>	<u>Jul-Dec</u>	<u>Jan-Jun</u>	<u>Jul-Dec</u>	
Geog. & Map Intell. Reports (G, CR, M)	2	2	3	8	19	11	21	66	
Special Geog. Intell. Reports (G/I, G/S, IN, IP, MP)	11	17	17	12	9	7	16	89	
Geographic Intell. Review (MR)	5	6	3	4	2	5	2	27	
MLS - Ch. I & II	3	1	5	1	5	4	4	23	
External Research Reports (MR)	--	--	2	--	--	--	2	4	
TOTALS	21	26	30	25	35	27	45	209	

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1. Procurement from Foreign Sources (by calendar year)

For All Agencies

	<u>Special Subject</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Related Publications</u>
1950	18,097	29,437	45,534	4,354
1951	20,413	46,669	67,112	5,177
1952	14,925	56,496	71,421	8,022
1953	17,716	30,233	47,949	8,655
Jan.-June 1954	11,337	24,672	36,009	5,060

Retained in CIA Map Library

1950	7,332	11,517	18,849	2,145
1951	12,151	18,785	30,934	2,632
1952	7,649	25,526	33,165	4,454
1953	10,153	13,392	23,545	5,384
Jan.-June 1954	5,166	7,366	12,532	2,781

Procurement from Domestic Sources

For All Agencies

	<u>Special Subject</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Related Publications</u>
1951	1,898	1,012	2,910	149
1952	2,786	1,109	3,895	126
1953	2,667	725	3,392	456
Jan.-June 1954	1,219	385	1,604	151

Retained in CIA Map Library

1951	1,307	529	1,836	104
1952	1,236	814	2,052	33
1953	969	310	1,279	66
Jan.-June 1954	495	321	816	28

The Map Library Division conducts procurement of maps and related materials for all U.S. mapping agencies. The statistics show the total receipts and those retained in the Map Library. Distribution of maps to the various agencies is based on their stated requirements.

Map procurement has been maintained at a relatively high level from 1950 to the present. Although it had been anticipated that there would be a considerable drop in the number of sheets procured once the gaps had been filled in the holdings of the U.S. mapping agencies, increases in foreign map production and increases in the U.S. requirements for foreign maps have helped to maintain the high level of procurement.

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MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

TAB C

2. Processing Activities (by calendar year)

<u>Year</u>	<u>SPECIAL SUBJECT MAPS</u>				<u>Total Sheets</u>	<u>SERIES MAPS</u>		<u>Total Sheets Processed</u>
	<u>CIA</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>From Books</u>	<u>Other</u>		<u>Titles</u>	<u>Sheets</u>	
1950	360	728	2,571	3,149	10,885	198	12,438	25,323
1951	488	1,156	1,013	2,800	8,949	164	21,552	30,501
1952	496	750	593	3,024	7,656	300	22,204	29,850
1953	660	987	835	2,372	7,504	71	5,582	13,086
Jan.-June 1954	732	507	334	2,506	6,142	44	5,579	11,721

PUBLICATIONS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Titles</u>	<u>Volumes</u>
1950	564	782
1951	650	976
1952	1,190	1,879
1953	1,070	1,881
Jan.-June 1954	827	1,507

The receipt and cataloging of CIA published maps has steadily increased from 360 in 1950 to 732 received and cataloged in the first six months of 1954. The cataloging of maps from reports remain steady. Book maps cataloged, in general, showed a decrease. The cataloging of other special subject maps remained fairly even, except for the decline in 1953 when the Processing Branch was understaffed. The handling of publications has increased from 782 volumes in 1950 to 1507 for the first six months of 1954.

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MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

TAB C

3. Reference Services (fiscal years 1951-1954)

FISCAL YEAR	REQUESTS	LOANS		GIFTS		TOTAL		NAME REQUESTS
		TITLES	COPIES	TITLES	COPIES	TITLES	COPIES	
1951	13,697	8,447	19,061	42,230	126,092	50,727	145,253	4,032
1952	16,976	14,224	24,755	36,703	24,647	10,040	228,261	3,984
1953	15,516	8,494	18,216	51,802	138,467	60,088	209,585	4,221
1954	12,827	7,471	15,830	43,023	175,325	50,494	191,153	3,326

While the statistical volume of reference services shows a marked correlation with the world political situation, the volume remains high and the actual workload is somewhat on the increase. Increasing amounts of new materials are available to requestors from new programs such as, the USAF Target Chart Program and from increased production by producing agencies.

There is continued increase in the number of requestors who consult reference personnel in person rather than by phone. The time difference between a personal contact and a phone request is very great.

The reductions in totals for fiscal year 1954 was largely due to the transfer of Department of State activities to FGA and UNIS, and to a reduction in the Foreign Service Training Program.

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PHOTO INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

TAB "D"

PROJECT SUMMARY

Fiscal Years 1953 - 1954

	<u>FY 1953</u>			<u>FY 1954</u>		
	<u>No. Projects</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>N.L.</u>	<u>No. Projects</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>N.L.</u>
DCI	4	15.3	1004	4	6.7	100
IN/Geog. Area	8	30.7	1001	10	17.0	2056
IN/Spec. Area	5	19.3	50	9	15.3	1463
OSI				10	16.9	470
OCI				2	3.3	60
CD/IN				3	5.1	71
O/IN				1	1.7	64
IN/P Area	9	34.6	1461	12	20.4	1802
USI/ONI				1	1.7	6
Self-initiated for basic support				7	11.8	445
TOTALS	26	99.9%	3516	59	99.9%	6537
						100%

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